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DOC SAVAGE
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The CONFLAGRATION MAN
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1935 DOUBLE DANGER STORIES
STORY BY JACK KIRBY
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"THE CONFLAGRATION MAN" CHAPTER 2

IN THE YEAR 1935, A MAD GENIUS EMERGES WHO CAN DETONATE THE WORLD'S ARSENALS AT WILL! HIS REIGN OF TERROR BRINGS ABOUT THE HISTORIC FIRST MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO GREATEST HEROES OF THEIR AGE:

DOC SAVAGE

THE Shadow

BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY LESTER DENT

BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY WALTER GIBSON

MIKE W. BARR WRITER	GERARD JONES CO-PLOTTER	ROD WHIGHAM LAYOUTS	EDUARDO BARRETO FINISHER
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ON A LONELY ROAD SOMEWHERE IN UPSTATE NEW YORK, WHERE GNARLED TREES CLAW AT AN ELUSIVE MOON...
THERE! YOU SEE IT, MISS LANE? THAT'S SAVAGE'S "CRIME COLLEGE"!
THAT'S WHERE HE'S TAKEN THE CHIEF?
THAT'S GOTTA BE IT THAT'S WHERE SAVAGE OPERATES ON CROOKS-- DOES THINGS TO THEIR BRAINS!
YOU SOUND AWFULLY SURE, HAWKEYE! IT STILL SEEMS CRAZY TO BE BUSTING IN ON DOC SAVAGE...
...BUT WE HAVE TO DO WHAT WE HAVE TO DO.
DIDJA FIND HIM, MR. VINCENT?
WE FOUND OUT WHERE HE IS, SHREVVY, BUT WE'LL NEED A DIVERSION TO GET HIM OUT!
PIECE A'CAKE!
AND INSIDE THE SPRAWLING STRUCTURE, BRONZED HANDS PREPARE TO WIPE A CRIMINAL BRAIN OF ILLICIT DESIRES...
ARE THE INSTRUMENTS STERILIZED, MONK?
CLEAN AS A WHISTLE, DOC!
...UNAWARE THE CAPTURED "CRIMINAL" BEFORE THEM IS REALLY THE DISGUISED SHADOW!*
WHEN HE COMES TO, HE'LL BE GLAD TO TELL US EVERYTHING HE KNOWS ABOUT THIS BUSINESS.
*SEE THE SHADOW STRIKES! #5.

AND AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CRIME COLLEGE...
WHAT'S THAT?
LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE!
STOP, DO YOU HEAR? STOP--!
BANG! BANG!
AND NOT FAR AWAY...
TAKE IT EASY, SHREWY! THE BOSS'LL BUY YOU ANOTHER CAB!
I LOVED THAT OLD HACK...!
A FEW SECONDS OF ANESTHETIC, AND WE'LL GET TO WORK.
THE BODY IS DRUGGED. SLUGGISH. BUT THE MIND PERCEIVES.
THE MIND COMMANDS.
DOC, HE'S--!
KNOCK HIM OUT!
MY PLEASURE!

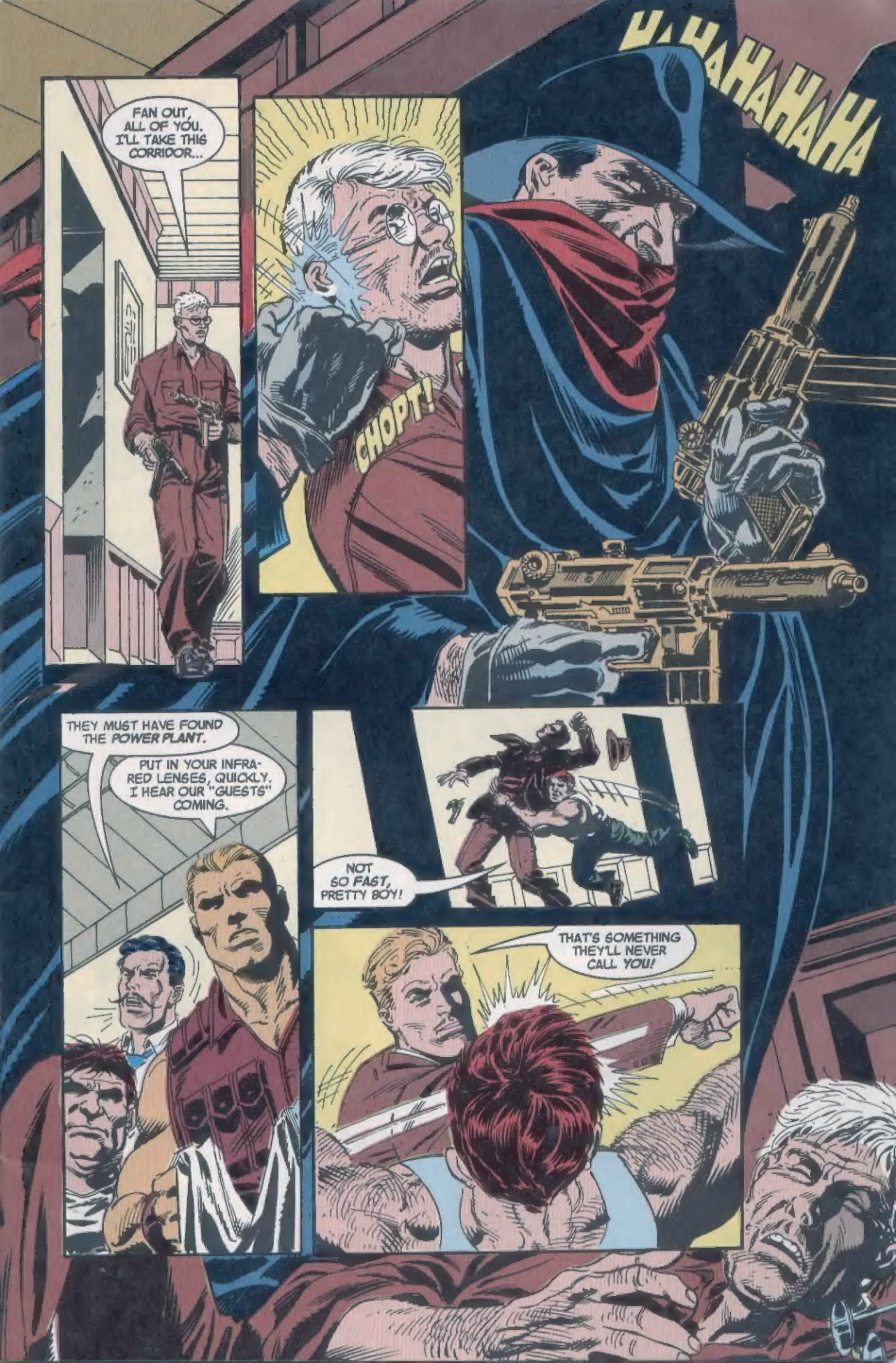
MRFFF!
SLASH!

OWWW!

HAHAHAHAHA
THAT LAUGH--!

RENNY, SEAL THE FACILITY, OUR CAPTIVE HAS ESCAPED.
HOLY COW, IT LOOKS LIKE TROUBLES ARE COMING IN BUNCHES TODAY, DOC...

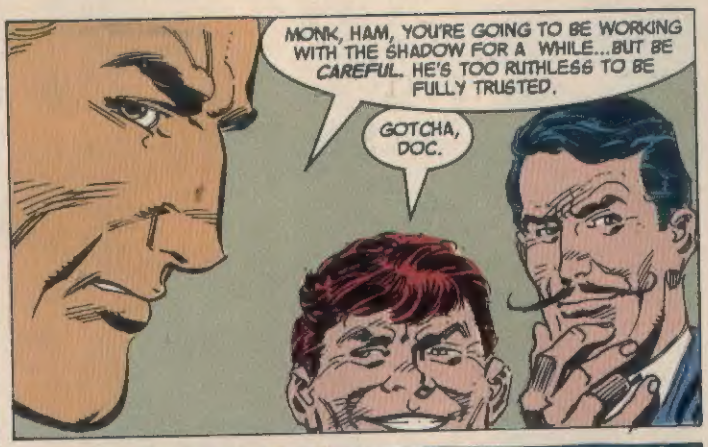
...WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
YOU REPEL THE INTRUDERS, I'LL HANDLE THE CAPTIVE.

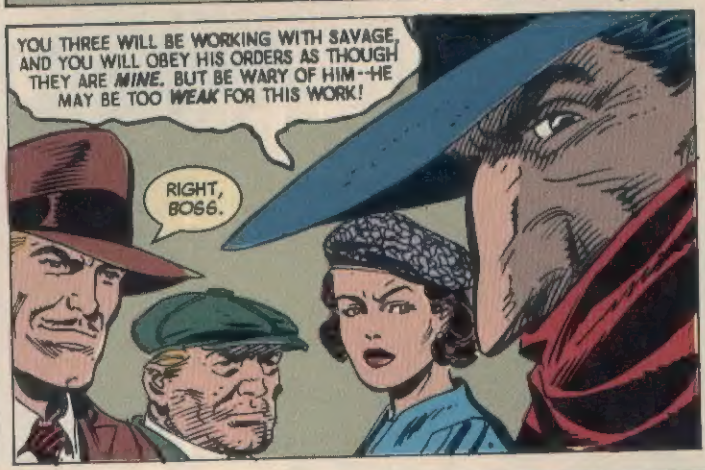

FAN OUT, ALL OF YOU. I'LL TAKE THIS CORRIDOR...
CHOPT!
HAHAHAHA
THEY MUST HAVE FOUND THE POWER PLANT.
PUT IN YOUR INFRA-RED LENSES, QUICKLY. I HEAR OUR "GUESTS" COMING.
NOT SO FAST, PRETTY BOY!
THAT'S SOMETHING THEY'LL NEVER CALL YOU!

YOU...YOU WOULDN'T USE THAT THING ON A LADY, WOULD YOU?
OF COURSE NOT, MY DEAR-- BUT I'VE A FEELING YOU'RE NO LADY!
WHERE WOULD YOU GET AN IDEA LIKE THAT?
OOOOF!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE--
--SHOW YOURSELF.
AS YOU WISH, CLARK SAVAGE, JR.!
BRRRRRT!
WHAT?
SPATATATATAT!
I DEVELOPED THE KNOCKOUT DRUG IN THOSE MERCY BULLETS--AS WELL AS ITS ANTIDOTE.
I SEE...

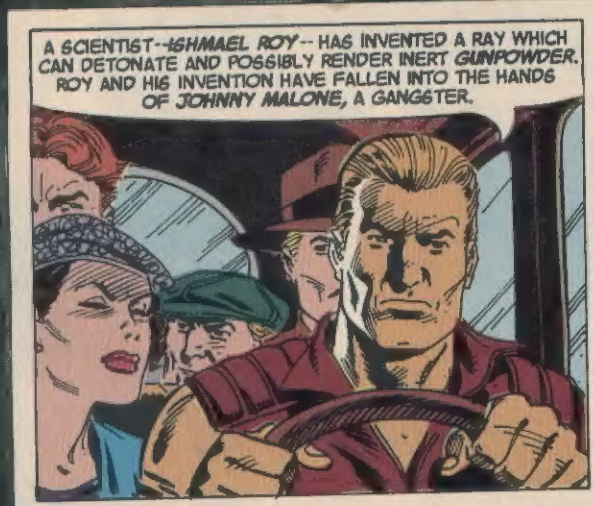
...THEN PERHAPS I CAN DO THE JOB THEY CANNOT!
IMPOSSIBLE...!
THE MAN IN BLACK FLOWS TOWARD DOC SAVAGE LIKE INK OVER GLASS...
...THOUGH HIS GRIP IS LIKE THAT OF DEATH ITSELF!
...I THOUGHT ONLY THE MAN WHO CREATED THE MARTIAL ART OF BARITSU AND I KNEW THE SECRET OF BREAKING THAT HOLD--AND HE WOULD NOT TEACH IT TO ONE HE DEEMED UNWORTHY!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WAS THINKING.
CEASE ALL FIGHTING--
AT ONCE!
THERE FOLLOWS A PERIOD OF HASTY DISCUSSION...

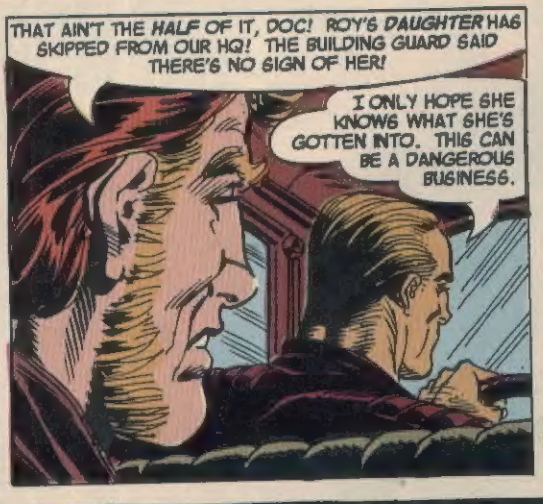
...AND WHEN IT IS FINISHED...
THEN WE ARE AGREED, CLARK SAVAGE, JR.?
YES, BUT I WANT A WORD WITH MY AIDES BEFORE LEAVING.
AS DO I.


MONK, HAM, YOU'RE GOING TO BE WORKING WITH THE SHADOW FOR A WHILE...BUT BE CAREFUL. HE'S TOO RUTHLESS TO BE FULLY TRUSTED.
GOTCHA, DOC.


YOU THREE WILL BE WORKING WITH SAVAGE, AND YOU WILL OBEY HIS ORDERS AS THOUGH THEY ARE MINE. BUT BE WARY OF HIM--HE MAY BE TOO WEAK FOR THIS WORK!
RIGHT, BOSS.

AND SOON, TWO POWERFUL AUTOMOBILES DEPART DOC SAVAGE'S "CRIME COLLEGE"--EACH CARRYING A UNIQUE ADVENTURER AND CRUSADER AGAINST EVIL!
WHAT'S THE PLAN, DR. SAVAGE? THE CHIEF DOESN'T TELL US MUCH.
PLEASE, MISS LANE, CALL ME DOC.


A SCIENTIST--ISHMAEL ROY--HAS INVENTED A RAY WHICH CAN DETONATE AND POSSIBLY RENDER INERT GUNPOWDER. ROY AND HIS INVENTION HAVE FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF JOHNNY MALONE, A GANGSTER.


THAT AIN'T THE HALF OF IT, DOC! ROY'S DAUGHTER HAS SKIPPED FROM OUR HQ! THE BUILDING GUARD SAID THERE'S NO SIGN OF HER!
I ONLY HOPE SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S GOTTEN INTO. THIS CAN BE A DANGEROUS BUSINESS.

YOU'RE A LOT LIKE HIM, YOU KNOW. THE SHADOW, I MEAN.
MISS LANE, HE LIVES ONLY TO PUNISH THOSE HE DEEMS EVIL. WE RIGHT INJUSTICES, AND AID THE HELPLESS. WE'RE NOTHING ALIKE.
IF YOU SAY SO. YOU KNOW, I HAVEN'T NOTICED MANY WOMEN IN YOUR OPERATION, DOC.
THERE CAN BE NO PLACE FOR A WOMAN IN MY LIFE UNTIL MY MISSION IS DONE.
THEN YOU AND HE ARE MORE ALIKE THAN YOU KNOW.
NEED A LITTLE HELP PUTTIN' ON YOUR MAKEUP, 'SHYSTER?
A BANANA MIGHT QUIET YOU DOWN, AND I KNOW JUST WHERE I'D LIKE TO PUT IT--
WILL YOU STOP YOUR INFERNAL BICKERING? HOW DOES SAVAGE STAND IT?
S-SORRY, SHADOW...
...SIR.
BROOKS, YOU WILL TAKE MY PLACE AS "ALPHONSE OMBRA." YOU WILL CLAIM YOU ESCAPED FROM SAVAGE AND TOOK MAYFAIR AS YOUR CAPTIVE!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

MY ACTIONS ARE MY OWN AFFAIR. MAYFAIR, CONCEAL THIS WEAPON ON YOUR PERSON, IN CASE OF HOSTILITIES.
THANKS, BUT DOC LIKES US TO USE HIS--
"MERCY BULLETS" ARE A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS! MY OPERATIVES MUST BE PREPARED TO TAKE THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO WOULD TAKE THEIRS!
Y'KNOW, I LIKE THIS GUY!
SHREVVY, DID YOU TRANSFER YOUR TOOL KIT FROM YOUR CAB?
RIGHT UNDER THE FRONT SEAT, BOSS...
MEANWHILE, AT A LESS-THAN-RESPECTABLE NIGHTCLUB IN LOWER MANHATTAN
Pink Rat
WHATCHA WANT, SISTER?
I'M LOOKING. .ER... FER JOHNNY MALONE!
JOHNNY! SOME FRAIL SAYS SHE WANTS TA SEE YA!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE HER!
PLEASE, MR. MALONE! IT'S VERY--
VIVIAN?

DADDY!
"DADDY," EH?
VIVIAN, BABY! I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
NO NEED TO WORRY NOW, PROF. WHY DON'T WE ALL GET ACQUAINTED...?
THIS IS YOUR PLACE, MR. MALONE? IT LOOKS SO RAMSHACKLE ON THE OUTSIDE...
...BUT INSIDE...! IT'S THE KIND OF PLACE I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF!
WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN VERY HAPPY, VIVIAN.
OF COURSE WE HAVE, DADDY. STILL, I'VE ALWAYS LOVED NICE THINGS...
ME TOO, KID -- AND WHAT YOU WANT IN THIS WORLD, YOU GOTTA TAKE!
BOSS?
BOSS, WHAT IS THIS? WE GOTTA GET THE PERFESSER'S RAY FIXED...!
THAT'S WHAT I'M DOIN', "NAILS."
PROFESSOR ROY, VIVIAN ROY, PLEASE MEET MY TRUSTED ASSOCIATE, MR. MONAHAN.
YOU CAN CALL ME "NAILS."

I'LL BE TAKING CARE OF VIVIAN, PROFESSOR, WHILE MR. MONAHAN TAKES YOU TO FIX YOUR RAY.
WE'VE BEEN SEPARATED TOO LONG AS IT IS! WHY CAN'T VIVIAN COME WITH US?
THERE'S ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY OF DANGER IN SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTATION...AND YOU WOULDN'T WANT YOUR DAUGHTER TO GET HURT, WOULD YOU?
N-NO...
LOTS NICER THAN THIS!
I'M SURE IT'LL BE OKAY, DADDY-- DON'T WORRY.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
SOMEPLACE NICE?
YALE
LOOK, PERFESSER, IF YOU WANNA GO WITH YOUR DAUGHTER, ME AN' THE BOYS CAN FIND THIS "YAHOO COIL" FER YER RAY.
LOOKS TO ME LIKE WE AIN'T DONE SO BAD FER OURSELVES SO FAR, PROF! WHERE DO WE FIND THIS COIL, ANYWAY?
THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE A YOLSKY COIL CAN BE HAD...
THAT'S "YOLSKY COIL"-- AS THOUGH I'D EVER ENTRUST MY CREATION TO A CRETIN LIKE YOU!
...THERE. IF THEY NEED A YOLSKY COIL, THEY'LL BE SHOWING UP THERE.

WE'LL NEED SILENCE FROM HERE ON OUT. RENNY, GET TO WORK WITH THE ELECTRONOMETER.
OKAY, DOC--BUT THESE THINGS GIVE ME THE WILLIES! I WISH LONG TOM AND JOHNNY WEREN'T OUTTA THE COUNTRY!
THE BURGLAR ALARM'S RIGHT BEHIND HERE, DOC.
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
WHAT'S HE DOING?
THE BOSS WOULDN'T BE FIDDLING AROUND WITH ALL THIS JIM-CRACKERY...!
I DON'T KNOW.
HOLE'S DRILLED, DOC--GO TO IT!
THE MAN OF BRONZE DEPRESSES THE BUTTON ON THE SMALL CAN...
...AND A THICK FOAM FLOWS THROUGHOUT THE BURGLAR ALARM, THOROUGHLY CLOGGING ITS WORKS.
BUT...
WHAT'S ALL THIS...?

SSSSSSSSS
THE INFRA-RED CONTACTS I GAVE YOU SHOULD MAKE ADDITIONAL LIGHT UNNECESSARY. RENNY, HAWKEYE, TAKE OUR SLEEPING FRIEND OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
THE AEROSOL PROPELLANT OF THE FOAM IS AN ANESTHETIC GAS THAT IS RENDERED INERT AFTER TEN SECONDS' EXPOSURE TO AIR.
HE'LL SLEEP FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS AND AWAKEN WITH NO MEMORY OF WHAT HAPPENED.
THESE ARE THE COILS, EH? WHERE ARE WE TAKING THEM, DOC?
YOLSKY COILS
NOWHERE, HARRY ..
...I'M GOING TO PUT THEM BACK--AFTER I ADD SOMETHING TO THEM.
DEACTIVATING THE ALARM, GASSING THE GUARD... A BODY WOULD THINK YOU WANT THESE TOUGHS TO FIND THE COILS, DOC.
YOLSKY COILS #17
I DO.

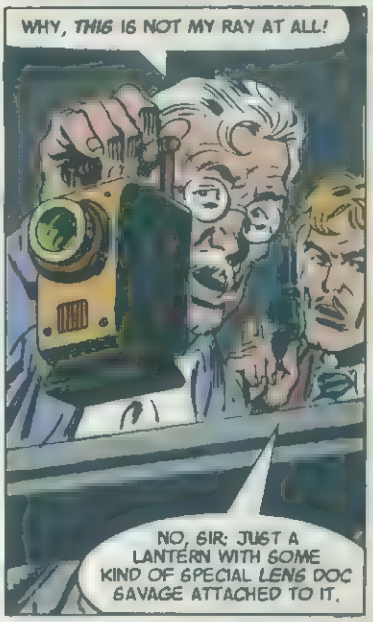
THERE'S A BUNCHA NO-GOODNIKS APPROACHIN' FAST, DOC.
GET READY, EVERYONE. REMEMBER THE PLAN.
THERE ARE THE COILS...!
THE RAY IS A DELICATE INSTRUMENT, MR. MONAHAN! PLEASE, LET ME--
SO YOU CAN USE IT ON US, PERFESSER? NOT A CHANCE!
I GUESS THAT'S OUR CUE! SURE YOU DON'T WANT A GUN, DOC?
I NEVER USE THEM.
PUT THE ROD DOWN THERE, AND MOVE BACK...!
WHAT IN HELL--!
FOOSH

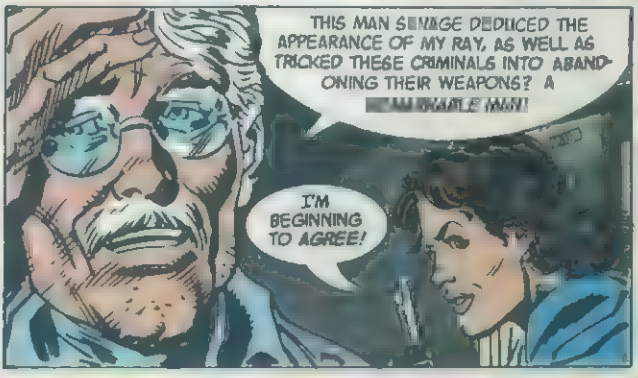
COME WITH US, PROFESSOR ROY!
BUT--MY DAUGHTER...!
PROFESSOR, QUIET--!
FREEZE!
NOW WHAT--?
YOU TWO BE READY TO MOVE IN SECONDS.
WHAT'S YER RACKET, PALLY? WHO'RE YOU WORKIN' WITH?
"NAILS," LOOK--!
RELEASE THEM AT ONCE!
WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?
MY--MY RAY...
...IT IS MY DETONATOR RAY!
DITCH YER GUNS!
DITCH 'EM!

THEY'RE LAYIN' FOR US HERE! GO BACK...!

AW, NO!

MAKE ROOM, UGLY!
I THINK YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE, PROFESSOR...

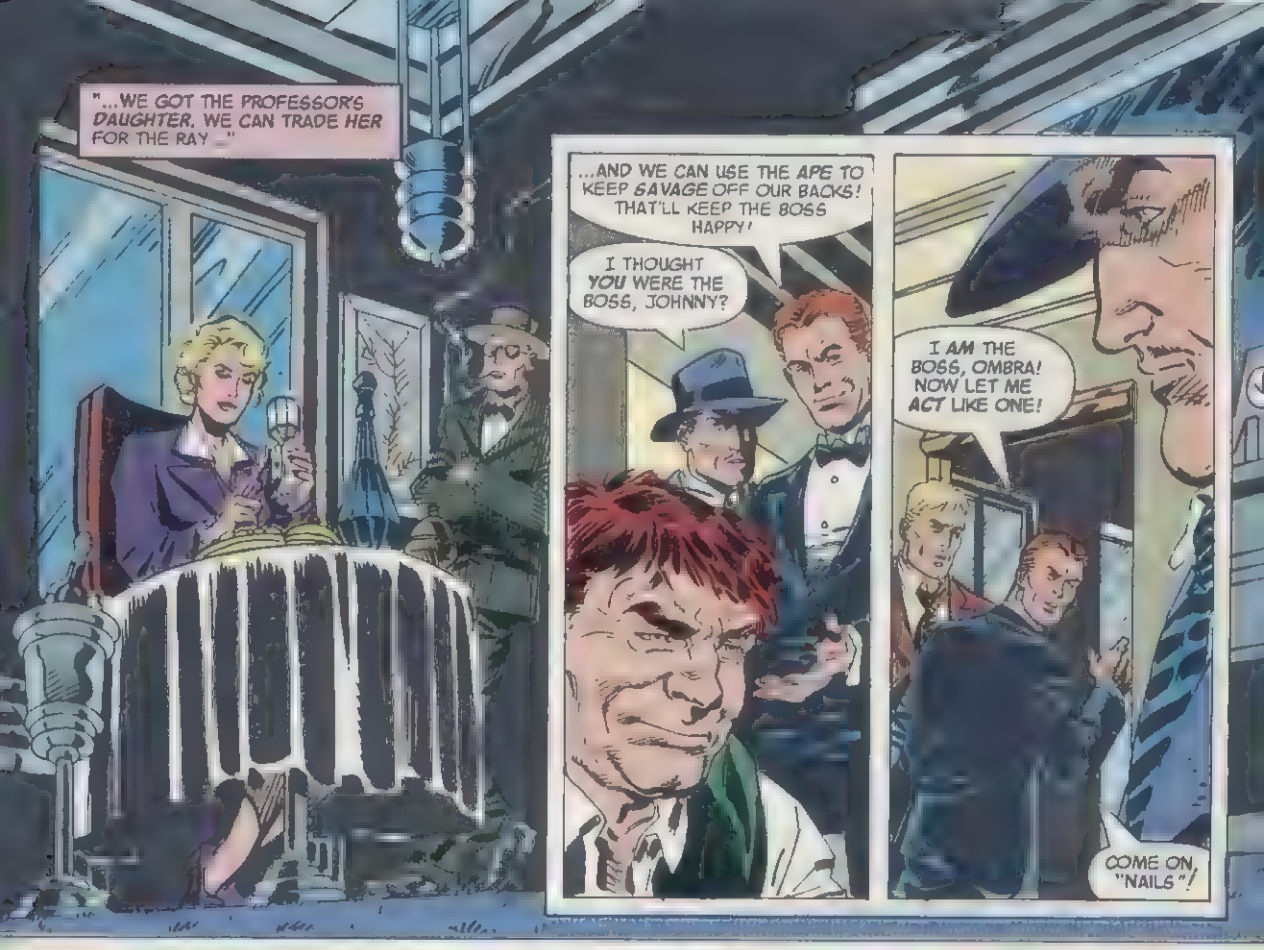

WHY, THIS IS NOT MY RAY AT ALL!
NO, SIR; JUST A LANTERN WITH SOME KIND OF SPECIAL LENS DOC SAVAGE ATTACHED TO IT.


THIS MAN SAVAGE DEDUCED THE APPEARANCE OF MY RAY, AS WELL AS TRICKED THESE CRIMINALS INTO ABANDONING THEIR WEAPONS? A [redacted]!
I'M BEGINNING TO AGREE!

THIS'LL MELT YOU DOWN, [redacted]!

WHUP
KRAKT
THUNK!
CLUDD

...BUT THE POWDER I INJECTED INTO THE YOLSKY COIL TO RENDER IT USELESS IS RADIOACTIVE.
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
IT'LL LEAD US RIGHT TO HIS DESTINATION.
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
AND IN AN ORNATE HOUSE ELSEWHERE ON LONG ISLAND.
YOU'RE TELLIN' ME YOU ESCAPED FROM DOC SAVAGE, OMBRA?
BETTER THAN THAT, JOHNNY...
...I EVEN CAPTURED ONE OF HIS MEN! GOOD THING YOUR MEN AT THE PINK RAT TOLD ME WHERE YOU WERE HOLED UP! A HOSTAGE OR TWO NEVER HURT!
GOOD IDEA, OMBRA!
I DON'T LIKE THAT SMILE IN YOUR VOICE WHEN YOU SAY "HOSTAGE," SHYSTER!
QUIET, YOU BABOON! DO YOU WANT TO GET US KILLED?
JOHNNY! DOC SAVAGE WAS WAITIN' FOR US AT THE WAREHOUSE! HE'S GOT THE PERFESSER AND THE RAY!
DAMN! BUT WE STILL GOT AN ACE TO PLAY...

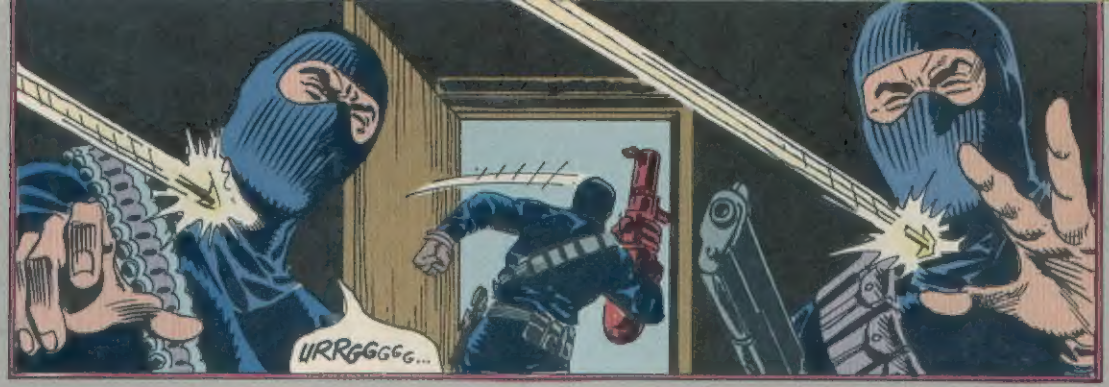

"...WE GOT THE PROFESSOR'S DAUGHTER, WE CAN TRADE HER FOR THE RAY..."
...AND WE CAN USE THE APE TO KEEP SAVAGE OFF OUR BACKS! THAT'LL KEEP THE BOSS HAPPY!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE BOSS, JOHNNY?
I AM THE BOSS, OMBRA! NOW LET ME ACT LIKE ONE!
COME ON, "NAILS"!

OUTSIDE, AN UNWELCOME GUEST KEEPS A TENSE WATCH.
...WHERE AN EVEN MORE UNWELCOME GUEST NOISELESSLY STALKS HIS PREY.
AN OFFICE. A SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

JOHNNY MALONE IS A COMPETENT FOLLOWER OF ORDERS, BUT DOES NOT POSSESS THE SPARK TO CONCEIVE THIS SCHEME.
THE REAL MANIPULATOR--THE SPIDER IN THE CENTER OF THE WEB-- IS THE TRUE DANGER.
HE MUST BE FOUND. EXTERMINATED.
...DUNNO HOW YOU COULD'VE LOST THE PROFESSOR AND THE RAY! WHAT DO THEY FEED YOU, STUPID PILLS?
LOOK, AT LEAST I ESCAPED!
YEAH, BIG DEAL! NOW GIVE ME SOME QUIET!
YES, THIS IS MR. MALONE, CALLING AT THE USUAL TIME. IS HE THERE, PLEASE?
A CLUE. A NAME. ANYTHING.
HE'S "INDISPOSED"? BUT HE WANTS ME TO HOLD? VERY WELL...
DON'T DRINK IT ALL! AND HURRY UP, WILL YA?
WHAT'S THE RUSH? SO WE'RE SNEAKIN' A TASTE...

"...EVEN IF JOHNNY CATCHES US, WHAT'S HE GONNA DO? KILL US?"
BRRRRRT!
CHIEF-!
BRRRRRT!
BRRRRRT!
IT'S A HIT!
SPWANG!
SPWEE!
WHOOM!
BOOM!

STAY DOWN, YOU THROWBACK!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE, AMBULANCE-CHASER!
BRRRRRT!
HELLO?
TELL HIM THE MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED.
LOOK OUT--!
WHOOM!
CROOM!
FWOOSH!
FWOOSH!



FLAKE-GOLD EYES BEHOLD A SCENE OF CARNAGE...OF MEN SLAUGHTERED LIKE CATTLE.

OF THE SHADOW--OR HIS OWN MEN--THERE IS NO SIGN. THERE IS ONLY AN ARCANE SYMBOL SCRAWLED ON THE WALL BY HANDS UNKNOWN...

...AND THE AIR, SILENT WITH DEATH, IS FILLED BY A MELODIOUS TRILLING THAT RISES AND FALLS LIKE THE SONG OF A TROPICAL BIRD...!

CONTINUED IN THE Shadow STRIKES! #6!